In the Claims:

1 (Currently amended). A method for preventing or treating a disorder of the skin, associated with damage induced by UV-radiation, wherein said method comprises administering, to a patient in need of such treatment, an effective amount of interleukin-18, and wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of sunburn, inflammation, and skin aging.

2 - 4 (Cancelled).

5 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the UV-radiation covers at least a range of wavelengths from 220 nm to 350 nm.

6 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the UV-radiation covers at least a range of wavelengths from 250 nm to 330 nm.

7 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the UV-radiation covers at least a range of wavelengths from 290 nm to 320 nm.

8 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 5, wherein the UV-radiation originates from natural and/or artificial sunlight.

9 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein said patient is a mammal.

10 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the application is systemic and/or topical.

11 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the application occurs by way of application of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or by injection.

12 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 11, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of liposomes, ointments, oils, cremes, emulsions and dispersions.

13 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 10, wherein the topical application occurs in a dose range of from 1 ng/ml to 1000 ng/ml.

14 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 10, wherein the systemic application occurs in a dose range of from 0.1 μg/kg bodyweight to 100 μg/kg bodyweight.

15 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 14, wherein the application occurs once to eight times daily.

16 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 9, wherein the application occurs before, during and/or after a patient is exposed to UV-radiation.

17 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 9, wherein the patient is a human.

18 (Previously presented). The method, according to claim 11, wherein the application is by intracutaneous injection of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.